

Remarks

Claim 1 is amended to recite an additional term - - rapid ventilation valve - -. This feature was in the previously independent claim 13 and is related to method claim 24. Further, the preamble of claim 1 is amended to recite the invention as a milking *unit* cylinder, which was originally intended, as was indicated by the preambles in claim 1's dependent claims.

Also, claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and thus by definition, is the same inventive concept as claim 1.

Claim 24 is directed to a method for automatically starting a milking process by rapidly ventilating a milking unit cylinder. Thus, all of the claims as amended are directed to apparatus or methods related to milking unit cylinders with rapid ventilation of a valve, and are therefore of a single inventive concept.

Also, claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 17 is amended to depend from claim 1, and claims 18 and 19 are amended to depend from claim 17. Claims 16 and 22 have been canceled.

In the Drawings

A replacement sheet with Fig. 1 is submitted to correct an obvious error by replacing identification numeral "15" for the cup seal with numeral - - 13 - -.

No new matter is added.

Provisional Election

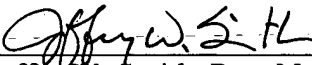
Finally, Applicants provisionally elect Group I with claim 1 as amended, but respectfully submit that Group II is now part of Group I as indicated above with the amendment to newly dependent claim 13.

Applicant: Stolte et al.
Application No.: 10/576,645

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are of a single inventive concept, and should all be examined in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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